

# Motions under Standing Order

## 16.11.2

### 1. Grammar Schools

Moved by Councillor Frank Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Alan Bayley.

‘This Council welcomes the news that the Government will create more Grammar Schools, one of the key policies of the UK Independence Party. It therefore resolves to fully support the introduction of new Grammar Schools in our County insisting they should be sited in areas which give the best chance of real social mobility.’

### 2. Schools that work for everyone

Moved by Councillor Ray Gooding and seconded by Councillor John Spence.

‘This Council:

- Welcomes the government’s Green Paper, ‘Schools that work for everyone’ and the intent that it contains to increase social mobility and ensure that everyone can aspire to the best for their children. These measures include the proposed expansion of existing grammar schools; the potential creation of new grammar schools and the sharing of expertise and good practice between all of the education sectors including independent schools and universities.
- Commits to consulting with local communities, head teachers and all Academies, Maintained, Independent and Grammar schools throughout the County.

In doing that, the Council:

- Recognises the achievement of Essex’s existing Secondary and Grammar Schools.
- Reaffirms its commitment to achieving universal excellence in Essex education inter alia by all schools being good and outstanding and all children achieving their full potential.
- Applauds the outstanding head teachers we have in Essex and the role they have played in raising the number of good and outstanding schools in the county by almost 50% over the last four years.

- Acknowledges the part played by good facilities and applauds the council's creation and planned expenditure on new school places to meet the growing demands together with the £85 million to be spent on special school places for the benefit of our most challenged children.'

### **3. Essex Pharmacies under Threat**

Moved by Councillor Mike Mackrory and seconded by Councillor Jon Whitehouse.

'This Council notes that as many as 3,000 community pharmacies are at risk after the Department of Health announced it was cutting their funding by £170 million. Of that 3,000, some 40% are located in the UK's top fifth most deprived neighbourhoods. However less than 5% of those at risk are in the country's most affluent postcodes.

Essex County Council therefore believes that the Government's plans threaten patient access to pharmacies and pharmacy services in Essex and more particularly in our most deprived areas. Our local pharmacies are at risk of closure or being forced to cut services such as free delivery of prescription drugs, family planning advice and advice on medicines. This will put more pressure on GPs, hospitals, impact social services and is at odds with the local Clinical Commissioning Groups' desire to increase the use of pharmacists to ease pressure on the already over stretched Accident and Emergency Services, and GPs, when booking appointments is already very difficult.

We therefore call on the Government to abandon these cuts and maintain a fully-funded community pharmacy service and request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and the Clinical Commissioning Groups in Essex expressing this view.'

### **4. Loneliness and Isolation**

Moved by Councillor Ivan Henderson and seconded by Councillor Julie Young.

'This council notes, with serious concern, research which estimates that over 80,000 people across Essex are likely to suffer from feelings of loneliness and isolation. This authority must consider its responsibility to vulnerable residents, not allowing its Increasing Independence Agenda to be a catalyst for rising numbers of residents suffering from isolation. It is crucial that ECC be forward thinking, laying the groundwork now to ensure that rising pressures on adult social care, mental health services and family support networks don't leave more and more of our residents left behind, and on their own.

This council therefore resolves to ensure that tackling isolation will always be a key consideration when forming policy and commissioning services.

Necessary steps will be taken to:

- Ensure policy makers here at ECC always keep inclusion and community resilience at the heart of what they do, understanding fully the implications of their decisions before they make them.
- Ensure that recognition of isolation and loneliness features heavily in public consultations (where relevant), with training and support made available where necessary.
- Review and adapt the Equality Impact Assessment framework to place greater emphasis on isolation and loneliness, taking into account all nine of the protected characteristics.'

## **5. Support for our Armed Forces**

Moved by Councillor Anne Brown and seconded by Councillor Derrick Louis.

'In December 2015, this Council expressed its support for and admiration of Her Majesty's Armed forces, many of whom are based in Essex.

This council therefore notes with great concern, that many of those service personnel are suffering greatly as a result of vexatious claims relating to Iraq Historic Allegations Team and that this has come at a tremendous cost to them, their families and indeed the public purse.

This council also notes with great concern that the Leader of the Labour Party has recently declined to condemn this practice and also notes that as a result has received severe criticism even from many in his own party.

This council therefore calls on the government and opposition parties alike to take or support all possible measures to ensure service personnel are no longer subject to these outrageous and vexatious claims.'